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## Banking group: Eurozone already in recession

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The eurozone has sunk into recession, a leading international banking organization said yesterday, adding that conditions in the 17-nation bloc had deteriorated swiftly.

"The situation in the euro area has taken a serious turn for the worse in the past month," the Institute of International Finance said in global outlook report.

"The economy has tipped into what we believe to be a recession, which will only serve to widen budget deficits and weaken bank asset quality further," the IIF said.

Incoming economic data for the just-ended third quarter and the early fourth quarter have been weaker than expected, the Washington-based trade group said.

The IIF economists highlighted a rise in unemployment in Germany, Europe's biggest economy, and slowing industrial production in the eurozone.

For all of 2012, GDP was expected to shrink 1.0 percent from this year, said the IIF, which represents more than 450 banks and financial institutions in more than 70 countries.

## Minister of Health and Sports informs IDEFRE staff regarding upcoming changes in sport-related government organizations

An integral part of the election platform of the current Minister of Health and Sport, Dr. Richard Visser, was a ten-year National Health Plan, to be fully realized by 2018; even before running for office, Dr. Visser organized programs for youth to motivate interest in sports and educate regarding healthy eating habits.

On Wednesday morning, November 23, he informed staff and management of IDEFRE, the governmental office in charge of sporting



**Minister Visser explains the plan**



**IDEFRE staff**

activities, as to an integration of various official branches to form an expanded, well-rounded program for general health, which was part of this plan.

Aruba is one of many western nations facing a serious burden to the medical industry because of obesity. Studies show between 38-40% of the island children to be obese, and 70% of the adult population. Minister Dr. Visser explained some of the reorganization, which they insist will in no way result in the loss of any jobs. However, the work of IDEFRE staff will be more encom-

events.

A focal point of the program will be a state of the art "Health Bus," which will offer services to schools, neighborhoods and businesses, including educational programs and superficial health testing for diabetes, cholesterol and other warning signs of possible chronic conditions.

The Minister cited the fact that the UN Health Organization has decided to reclassify such chronic health problems as diseases, which opens up the possibility of funding of services to prevent and treat many ailments stemming from obesity.

*Continued on page 3*



passing towards promoting healthy lifestyles generally, rather than only scheduling and supervising sporting

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## Officer Nicolaas celebrates 30 years with the Aruba Police



Recently, the Aruba Police Force commended Reginaldo Nicolaas for 30 years of loyal service. The Police High Commissioner presented Officer Nicolaas with not only the customary envelop, but also his decree certifying his 30 years with the government.

Police Chief Mr. A.E. Richardson and colleagues conducted a festive evening in celebration of Nicolaas' career and thanked him for his contri-

bution to the organization. They appealed to him to continue with his excellent job performance, guiding personnel under his watch and serving his community.

The Aruba Police Force extends their congratulations to Nicolaas for his perseverance and loyalty.

Photos show Officer Nicolaas receiving his decree; and Nicolaas with his colleagues

## Aruba's Hospital gave special attention to Children



**Dr. Raynherc is congratulated for his presentation to the group**

ORANJESTAD -- Last week, our local Hospital gave special attention to specialized children's nurses who work with children in our Hospital. Every year on the 16th of November special attention and honor is given to the work of specialized nurses who work with children.

The children's department together with the Board of the Hospital are of the opinion that every child has the right to receive quality hospital care. They are also convinced that children deserve and have the right to be guided and given support during their hospital stay.

Last week was filled with different special activities commemorating the day. The first activity was a special church mass held at the Brazil Catholic Church. This was followed with a lunch at Sunchie's Restaurant where the nurses and colleagues sang to Karaoke tunes and celebrated the special day.

Several informative lec-



**The team of specialized children's nurses**

tures were organized. Pediatrician Dr. Raynherc was among the various speakers.

*Continued on page 4*

# Thanksgiving Buffet

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## Minister of Health and Sports informs IDEFRE staff....

*Continued from page 1*

The "Health Bus" is expected to be on the road soon, and this will be accentuated by pilot projects in 4 to 5 schools beginning with the 2012 school year, which will include P.E. classes that are now non-existent under the old system, as well as the prohibition of the sale of unhealthy snacks and sugary sodas in school canteens.

All of these initiatives fall under the umbrella of the Instituto Biba Saludabel Aruba or IBiSA, which has a multi-point and integrated approach towards sports, health education and directing islanders towards healthier lifestyles.

More information regard-



**IBiSA Health Bus**

ing the program and a full outline can be found at <http://www.salud.aw/>.

by **Rosalie Klein**

## AAA reacts to press release regarding road piece at airport

ORANJESTAD - AAA has taken notice of the release of statement to the press by a political party with regard to the purpose of displaying a so-called road piece, that is temporarily for display at the Arrivals Hall within the customs area.

Without commenting on certain allegations in that statement AAA can inform the public that the temporary display fits well in the strategy and overall efforts to give the airport an Aruban ambiance, specifically as part of the arrival process. The road piece (award winning road piece 2011) is one of the various initiatives that have to bring the arriving tourists into contact with Aruban culture and events, warming them up for a truly Aruban experience and

carnival is exactly part of that. It is noticed that the road piece attracts a lot of attention from incoming tourists, making picture and posing in front. It can therefore be considered as successful experiment, that AAA plans to continue in future, obviously changing the road piece, depending on which one will be awarded 1st place in 2012's carnival.

AAA will shortly be unveiling similar ambiance improvements in the arrival building. Stay tuned!

As to the particular location of this or future road pieces, AAA can inform that after concluding discussions with Customs Department, the location will be slightly altered, restoring the view for meeters and greeters into the Arrival Hall, welcoming their loved ones.

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## Dutch set to live longer

-- The life expectancy of babies born between 2000 and 2010 has increased substantially, according to Statistics Netherlands. Life expectancy for males has risen from 75.5 to 78.8 years old, for females it's gone up from 80.6 to 82.7.

Men who reached 65 in the same period are now expected to live a further 17.6 years; up from 15.3. Women in the same age group may live an additional 20.8 years, as opposed to 19.2.

The likelihood of 60 year-olds reaching 80 has also increased substantially, from 52 percent in 2000 to 63 percent last year. The increase for women in this group is smaller, but three quarters of women are expected to reach 80 years of age. A third of 65-year-old women will make 90 if mortality rates remain the same as they are now. Almost 20 percent of men aged 65 may now expect to live until their 90s.

## Cas Animal Cont'd Holiday Time

Holidays are a cheerful time; however, not always for the four-legged member of the family, who sometimes gets left behind for weeks at a time to fend for themselves. Kiki Ardnt, founder of Cas Animal Foundation, which has been rescuing stray and abandoned dogs on Aruba for 14 years, calls these unfortunate dogs and cats her "Christmas victims," and each year gets at least one call, if not several, from some neighbor who begs her to retrieve the starving pet.

Holiday time is also a time to give thanks, and Kiki particularly cares to thank her partner in rescuing those sad creatures which others have abandoned or abused. These are the veterinary clinics of Contreras, which has been a steadfast supporter for years, and their protégé, Natalie



Kiki with Natalie, Rooje and Myron of the clinic

Booi, who opened her own Animal Care Clinic in Paradera a couple of years ago.

It takes a great deal of patience and heart to join in the often extensive treatment needed to save some dogs, particularly those who have been hit by cars, or have extreme degrees of tick fever; however, as Kiki has proved over and over again, they can be rehabilitated and live happy lives for years after. Kiki is well aware, in her constant efforts to find her abandoned charges good homes, most of the older dogs will not be appealing to potential adopters, so she cares for over 80 in her home and is working hard to raise the funds for Aruba's first, proper, no-kill refuge.

Kiki acknowledges she could not fulfill what has become her mission in life, without the spirit of these humane veterinarians, who fight alongside her to save a dog that has no owner, with the hope they will eventually find it a loving home. Presently she has a number of healthy puppies that would make wonderful holiday gifts to children who will be

taught properly how to care for and raise a canine companion to be a devoted, life long friend who will not be abandoned when it is no longer convenient to care for.

Those interested in adopting a puppy or one of the more than 100 stray or abandoned dogs in Kiki's care can do so by calling her at 565-2130 or 742-8732. You can also report an animal in need of assistance, as she maintains an Animal Ambulance to rescue them. Her expenses for feeding all the animals she has taken in are astronomical, as well as her veterinary bills. One can help by paying on her account at the Contreras Clinics in Shaba or Savaneta, or to Animal Care Clinic, phone number 582-8382, as well as directly to the bank account of Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. If you are not an island resident and wish to adopt a dog, Kiki will assist you in the process, as it is much easier to return to the U.S. with an Aruban dog than you might think.

by Rosalie Klein

## Aruba's Hospital . . .

Continued from page 2

He gave ample information about Diabetes in children. Neurologist Falconi shared information about a disease called A.D.E.M. which appears in children.

There is just one case of A.D.E.M. in a child here in Aruba. Urologist Dr. Petronilia also shared very valuable information.

Nose Throat and Ear specialist Dr. Steve Cabenda provided the group of specialized nurses with ample information about implantations of electronic devices

into a child's ear to correct hearing loss.

All in all the week was extremely informative with information to improve on the quality of care at our Hospital. Finally, on International Children Rights Day, they organized a special bus trip for all employees of the Children's Department and their children.

The week was well spent with special learning and enjoyable activities with a focus on children and on those who work with children every day.

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## Peru won't seek life in prison for Van der Sloot

LIMA-- Peruvian prosecutors will seek a 30-year sentence rather than a life term in the murder trial of Joran Van der Sloot, who is accused of killing a 21-year-old business student, the judiciary said.

Van der Sloot has confessed to killing Peruvian Stephany Flores last year after meeting her in a casino in Lima.

Mario Amoretti, a Peruvian lawyer specializing in criminal law, said the public had expected prosecutors would try for a stiffer sentence against Van der Sloot but they had to scale back their plans because of sentencing guidelines for murders in which robbery could be the primary motive.

If convicted and sentenced to a 30-year prison term, Van der Sloot would be eligible for parole after serving 10 years. The trial is expected to start in about four months.

Peruvian police said Flores, the daughter of a wealthy businessman, was robbed and killed on May 30, 2010, five years to the day after Holloway disappeared.

Van der Sloot has told police he strangled Flores after he found her looking at his laptop computer in his hotel room. The laptop contained emails about Holloway's death.

Van der Sloot, reportedly 24 years old, fled to Chile after Flores' death but was arrested there and returned to Peru for questioning.

The murder probe brought renewed attention to the case of Holloway, who vanished during a high school graduation trip in the Dutch Caribbean island of Aruba, where Van der Sloot was living.

## Good News for the employee....but for the employer...?

ORANJESTAD -- Based on article 13 section 1 of the Government Decree on Minimum wages, a Minister of Labor can, after consulting the Social Economic Counsel (SER), mandate an adjustment to the minimum wage of the country in the event there was a cost of living increase between the period of one year. Apparently between August 2010 and August 2011, Aruba has had such a cost of living increase as evidenced by the cost of living index.

From the Central Bureau of Statistics, we learn that Aruba's inflation stands now at 6.8%. Once this figure was reported, Minister Oduber began the process of adjusting the minimum wage to compensate for the increase.

The Social Economic

Counsel, after carefully studying the matter, submitted their recommendation to the government. They concur that an adjustment is warranted, and that the minimum wage could/should be increased by 4%.

Hence, based on all the advice received, the council of Ministers decided to increase the minimum wage. This decision was not taken lightly, according to government sources.

They deliberated long over the matter; they examined all aspects and consequences of such a decision. They examined the influence that a salary increase would have, for example, on AZV, the Pension Fund, the ongoing negotiations in the National Social Dialogue, and on the General Obligatory Pension to yet be approved

by Parliament.

Minister Oduber has formally announced that via a Government Decree, the minimum wage will be increased by 4% as of January 1st, 2012. This means that as of January 2012 the minimum wage will be set at Fls.1.604,60.

The government was pleased with the response from all parties in the National Dialogue. They offered advice, positive counsel and unanimously agreed on the implementation of an increase in the minimum wage.

While this is great news for employees, the question has been raised if employers consider this good news for them?

Employers are the ones to foot the bill for this increase.

Labor observers have in-

dictated that employers on the average and by and large resent these increases because one way or the other they cut into their bottom line!



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## S.America takes aim at foot-and-mouth disease

BRASILIA (AFP) - Agriculture ministers from six South American countries agreed at a meeting yesterday to make the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease a regional priority.

The Brasilia gathering followed a foot-and-mouth outbreak in Paraguay in September that led to a temporary ban by Brazil on all imports of beef, pork, and live cattle and pigs from its small neighbor.

"The eradication of foot-and-mouth disease is a priority for the region," ministers and top officials from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay said in a final statement.

Participants said the outbreak, which affected 13 animals in Paraguay's province of San Pedro, 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of Asuncion and triggered an alert in the entire region, was deemed to have been brought under control.

In reaction to the outbreak, Uruguay, where beef is the top

export, immediately closed its borders to animals, animal byproducts and certain goods from Paraguay.

Argentina, the sixth largest beef exporter, then issued a food health alert and suspended imports from Paraguay.

Beef is the number two export for mostly rural Paraguay, totaling \$650 million last year.

"As a region, we are going to focus on identifying the causes and prevent this type of outbreak from recurring in each of our regions," Paraguay's Agriculture Minister Panfilo Alberto Ortiz told a press conference.

His Argentine counterpart Julian Dominguez hailed regional coordination in confronting the outbreak.

"Together we will be stronger," said Brazil's Agriculture Minister Jorge Alberto Mendes Ribeiro.

The ministers called for international assistance to Paraguay.

## Obama jabs Congress as he pardons turkey

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama performed his seasonal role of pardoning a Thanksgiving turkey yesterday, joking it was one duty he could perform without approval of an obstructive Congress.

Obama reprieved a 45-pound (20-kilogram) turkey called Liberty and an understudy named Peace from the butcher's knife and the birds will gobble out their golden years on George Washington's estate in Mount Vernon, Virginia.

"Some of you may know that recently I have been taking a series of executive actions that don't require congressional approval," Obama said.

"Here's another one. We can't wait to pardon these turkeys," he said using the catchphrase he uses to bypass his Republican foes and sign job creating measures into law.

"Otherwise they would end



up next to the mashed potatoes and stuffing."

"The turkey's name is Liberty, and along with his understudy named Peace he has the distinction of being the luckiest bird on the face of the earth. Right now, he's probably one of the most confused."

Obama quipped that the birds, pardoned under the North Portico of the White House, had undergone media training to prepare for their big

day in the media spotlight.

On a serious note, he urged US citizens to give thanks for their blessings on the famed American holiday on Thursday, and to remember those who are less well off.

The tradition of granting a presidential pardon for turkeys only dates back to president George Bush in 1989, but Thanksgiving was first celebrated by pilgrims who fled religious persecution in England.

## US says will not alter missile shield plan in Europe

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States will not alter its plans to deploy a NATO missile defense system in eastern Europe, US officials said yesterday, adding the shield was not aimed at Russia.

"The United States has been open and transparent with Russia on our plans for missile defense in Europe, which reflect a growing threat to our allies from Iran that we are committed to deterring," insisted National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor.

And he added: "In multiple channels, we have explained to Russian officials that the missile defense systems planned for deployment in Europe do not and cannot threaten Russia's strategic deterrent."

He was speaking after Russia warned it could deploy missiles on the EU's borders to strike against the planned missile defense facilities.

President Dmitry Medvedev said Moscow was prepared to deploy short-range Iskander missiles in the Kaliningrad enclave that borders EU members Poland and Lithuania.

Romania and Poland have agreed to host part of a revamped US missile shield which Washington said is aimed solely at "rogue" states like Iran but Moscow believes would also target its own capability.

NATO member Turkey has also decided to host an early warning radar at a military facility near Malatya in the southeast.

Vietor said the implementation of the missile system in eastern Europe "is going well and we see no basis for threats to withdraw from it."

"We continue to believe that cooperation with Russia on missile defense can enhance the security of the United States, our allies in Europe, and Russia, and we will continue to work with Russia to define the parameters of possible cooperation," he added.

"However, in pursuing this cooperation, we will not in any way limit or change our deployment plans in Europe."

A Pentagon spokesman also stressed yesterday that the system was not aimed at Russia, but sought to deter any ballistic missile threat from Iran.

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## French court approves Noriega's extradition to Panama

PARIS (AFP) - A French appeals court ruled yesterday that former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega could be extradited to his homeland to serve time for crimes committed during his iron-fisted rule in the 1980s.

Noriega, a former US ally who ruled Panama from 1983 until his overthrow in a US invasion in 1989, spent more than 20 years in a US jail before being extradited in 2010 to France where he was convicted of money laundering.

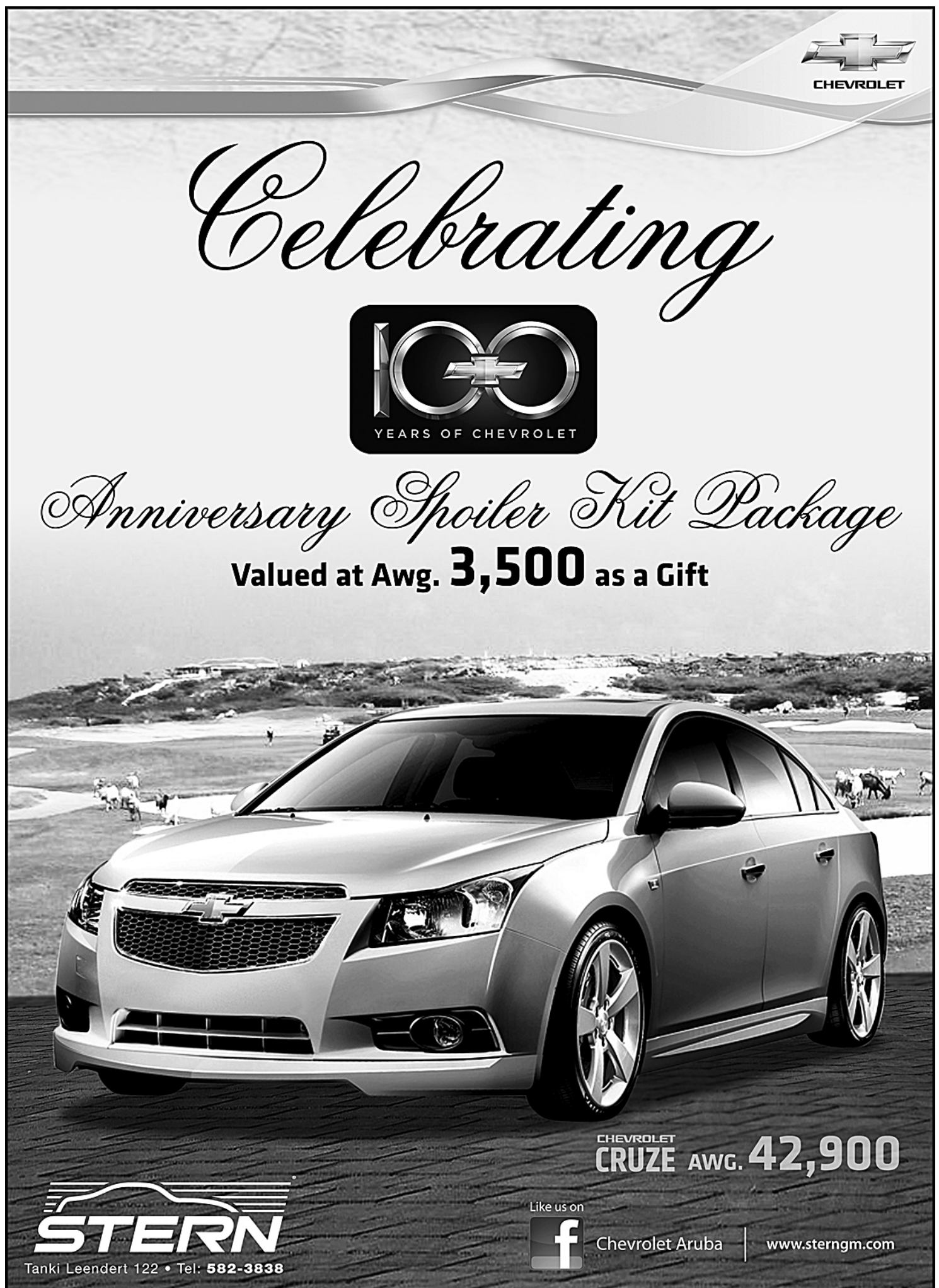
Yesterday's ruling comes after the United States agreed to a second Panamanian extradition request. US approval is required because US authorities sent Noriega to France in April 2010 while he was serving time in a Miami jail.

One of Noriega's lawyers said last week that the fallen leader should be home for Christmas and might not even go to prison because of the 77-year-old's alleged ill health.

A longtime intelligence chief who became the country's military ruler in 1983, Noriega spent 21 years in a Miami prison on drug charges after his overthrow, and then was extradited to France, where he was sentenced to six years in prison on charges of laundering money for the Medellin drug cartel.

Panama wants him extradited from France to serve three 20-year sentences for the murders of three opponents -- Hugo Spadafora, a doctor and former deputy health minister, in 1985; Captain Moises Giroldi in 1989; and union activist Heliodoro Portugal in 1970.

Panamanian authorities also want to judge Noriega -- nicknamed "pineapple face" for his pockmarked skin -- for other crimes committed during under his regime.



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## Clooney, Ronaldo called as witnesses in Berlusconi sex trial

MILAN (AFP) - An Italian court ruled yesterday that George Clooney and Cristiano Ronaldo can be called as witnesses in ex-prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's trial for having sex with an underage prostitute.

Lawyers for Berlusconi want the Hollywood heartthrob and Real Madrid football star to help defend their client from charges of paying for sex

with a 17-year-old girl and then pressuring police to get her freed from custody.

The two are being called in an attempt to discredit the woman, Karima El Mahroug, better known by her stage name as "Ruby the Heart Stealer," who claims Clooney was at a raunchy party she attended and says she had sex with Ronaldo.

Clooney had already denied the claim and has said that he could testify. Ronaldo dismissed El Mahroug's assertion as "totally false".

The two are among 78 star witnesses including several former government ministers, a Neapolitan singer and two famous starlets being called by the defence, according to the list approved yesterday.

Prosecutors are calling a total of 136 witnesses including Moroccan-born El Mahroug and 32 other young women who attended parties at the former premier's luxury villa near Milan where the underage sex crime allegedly took place.

During police questioning, extracts from which have been leaked to Italian newspapers, El Mahroug recounted orgies

referred to as "Bunga Bunga" parties describing several naked women giving the ageing billionaire lap dances.

Berlusconi faces a maximum of three years in prison for the sex charge and 12 years for abuse of power, after he allegedly abused the power of his office to get El Mahroug released when she was arrested in an unrelated case.





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## Health & Living

### Heart disease: Long-term study proves benefit of statins



PARIS (AFP) - Statins safely reduce the risk of cardiovascular illness even years after treatment is stopped, according to a probe into the popular cholesterol-busters published on Wednesday.

Statins work by blocking a liver enzyme that makes fatty molecules which line arterial walls and boost the danger of heart disease and strokes.

With worldwide annual sales of more than 20 billion dollars, the drugs have been

dubbed "the aspirin of the 21st century" because of their benefit and wide use.

But lingering questions persist about their long-term safety for the heart, liver and cancer risk.

Researchers at the Heart Protection Study Collaborative Group in Oxford looked at 20,536 patients at risk of cardiovascular disease who were randomly allocated 40mg daily of simvastatin or a dummy look-alike over more than five years.

During this period, those who took the statins saw a reduction in "bad" LDL cholesterol and a 23-percent reduction in episodes of vascular ill-health compared to the placebo group.

The monitoring of the volunteers continued for a further six years after the trial ended.

The benefits persisted throughout this monitoring period among those volunteers

who stopped taking the statins, the investigators found.

In addition, there was no emergence of any health hazard among those who had taken, or were continuing to take, the drugs.

A large number of cancers (nearly 3,500) developed during this follow-up period, but there was no difference in cancer incidence between the statin and placebo groups.

"The persistence of benefit we observed among participants originally allocated simvastatin during the subsequent six-year post-trial period is remarkable," said one of the investigators, Richard Bulbulia.

A previous investigation in November 2010 found that long-term use of statins was less risky than thought for people with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), a common liver ailment.

### Learn from Shakespeare, study tells doctors

PARIS (AFP) - Doctors should read up on Shakespeare, according to an unusual medical study that says the Bard was exceptionally skilled at spotting psychosomatic symptoms.

Kenneth Heaton, a doctor at the University of Bristol in western England, trawled through all 42 of Shakespeare's major works and 46 genre-matched works by contemporaries.

He found Shakespeare stood out for his ability to link physical symptoms and mental distress.

Vertigo, giddiness or dizziness is expressed by five male characters in the throes of emotional disturbance, in "The Taming of the Shrew", "Romeo and Juliet", "Henry VI Part 1", "Cymbeline", and "Troilus and Cressida".

Eleven instances of breathlessness linked to extreme emotions are found in "Two Gentlemen of Verona", "The Rape of Lucrece", "Venus and Adonis" and "Troilus and Cressida".

Grief or distress is conveyed through symptoms of fatigue in "Hamlet", "The Merchant of Venice", "As You Like It", "Richard II" and "Henry IV Part 2".

Meanwhile, coldness and faintness, emblematic of deep shock, occur in "Romeo and Juliet", "Julius Caesar", "Richard III" and elsewhere.

"Shakespeare's perception that numbness and enhanced sensation can have a psychological origin seems not to have been shared by his contemporaries, none of whom included such phenomena in the works examined," Heaton observes.

Shakespeare can help doctors today who face patients whose physical state masks underlying emotional problems, he suggests.

"They could learn to be better doctors by studying Shakespeare. This is important because the so-called functional symptoms are the leading cause of general practitioner visits and of referrals to specialists."

### Bulgaria choking on hazardous air

SOFIA (AFP) - Air quality in Bulgaria has deteriorated sharply over the past week with dust pollution up to five times over the norm, posing a grave health risk, the environment ministry said Wednesday.

The concentration of fine dust particles in the air was over five times the norm of 50 micrograms per cubic metre in the western town of Pernik on Monday and four times in the capital Sofia.

"This pollution is typical for winter days without wind. It is due to the massive use of coal for heating," both in thermal plants and by individual households, Serafimov said.

The latest UNDP Human Development Report issued on November 2 found that Bulgaria, along with Armenia and Romania "lead the world in deaths from outdoor air pollution".

"Long-term exposure to

outdoor air pollution causes respiratory disorders, immune system damage and carbon monoxide poisoning, among other deleterious effects," it said, citing industrial pollution as a serious health risk.

A Bulgarian doctor cited by 24 Hours also warned of a heightened risk of heart attack and stroke.

Bulgaria's latest census in February found that 57 percent of all households burn wood and coal for heating, which is much cheaper than electricity or central heating.

Only 13.7 percent of households had access to central heating, while gas use was limited to a mere two percent.

Bulgaria's heating plants, which run on coal or fuel oil, old second-hand vehicles without catalytic converters and dusty roads that are rarely washed also contribute to urban smog, a recent environment ministry report said.



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## Sci-Tech

# Peruvian gold mine, locals clash over resources

LIMA (AFP) - Residents in the northern city of Cajamarca plans a mass protest today to vent their anger over a new mine they say will harm agriculture and livestock by relocating water supplies.

The protest against the \$4.8 billion Conga Project, run by US-based Newmont Mining Corporation, threatens to become violent as protesters plan to block roads and close down businesses.

People in the region "categorically" reject the project, said Wilfredo Saavedra, head of the Cajamarca Environmental Defense Front, a coalition of groups that will participate in the strike.

Cajamarca, known as the city where the last Inca emperor filled a room with gold to pay ransom for his release from Spanish conquistadores, is located in the Andes 870 kilometers (550 miles) north-east of Lima.

Newmont already runs Yanacocha, South America's

largest gold mine, located some 70 kilometers (40 miles) north of Cajamarca.

The conflict exemplifies the problems that President Ollanta Humala faces in trying to balance the needs of the people who elected him -- mainly the country's poor and working class -- with the demands of the mining industry, the engine of Peru's economic growth in the past years.

At the heart of the conflict is access to water: the Conga Project involves moving the water from four lakes located high in the mountains into reservoirs the company would build.

Locals however say the reservoirs do not adequately replace the lakes, which also provides ground water for agriculture and for raising livestock.

"President Humala has let us down by affirming that it is possible to find a balance between water and mining -- that is impossible," Saavedra told

AFP. He urged the president to live up to his campaign promise to "defend Cajamarca" against the abuses of the mining companies.

Humala, a leftist nationalist former army major who took office in July, "has been abducted by the country's powerful groups," said the president of the Cajamarca region, Gregorio Santos.

The Congra Project environmental impact study was approved under the previous president, Alan Garcia. The company says it meets all international environmental safeguards.

Mining in Peru generated last year some \$15 billion, and this year mining exports are expected to be above \$25.5 billion, according to government figures.

Friction between mining operations and local residents however has also increased.

Some 30 people were wounded on November 10 in clashes with police in the south-eastern province of Apurimac as locals tried to stop area mining. Locals and police have also clashed in Ancash province over mining resources, and Garcia was forced to cancel a major Canadian mining project in the southern province of Puno before leaving office due to massive protests.

# 'Emissions gap' overshadows warming target: UNEP



-(AFP) - The gap between what is being pledged to tackle carbon emissions by 2020 and what is needed remains as wide as ever, perhaps wider, the UN said on Wednesday.

Reporting ahead of world climate talks, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) said annual carbon emissions would have to fall by around 8.5 percent compared with 2010 to bring Earth on track for reaching a commonly-accepted goal for warming.

In 2010, the last UN climate conference in Cancun, Mexico, decided to limit the increase in global average temperature to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial levels.

The UNEP report sketched scenarios giving a "likely" chance -- more than 66 percent -- of meeting this target.

Annual emissions that in 2010 were 48 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e), a standard benchmark

of greenhouse gases, would have to peak before 2020 and then fall to 44 billion tonnes of CO2e in that year, it said.

Yet the report also pointed to a possible widening in the "emissions gap," a term describing the difference between carbon-curling pledges and what is needed to reach the 2 C (3.6 F) objective.

Last year, UNEP estimated that this "emissions gap" was set to be between five and nine billion tonnes in 2020.

Its new estimates are higher, at six to 11 billion tonnes, "but are still within the range of uncertainty of estimates," the updated report said.

The size of the gap depends on how rigorously pledges are implemented and monitored, it explained.

Assuming that the 2020 global carbon curb is reached, emissions would still have to be followed by a steep decline, of an average of 2.6 percent per year, UNEP cautioned



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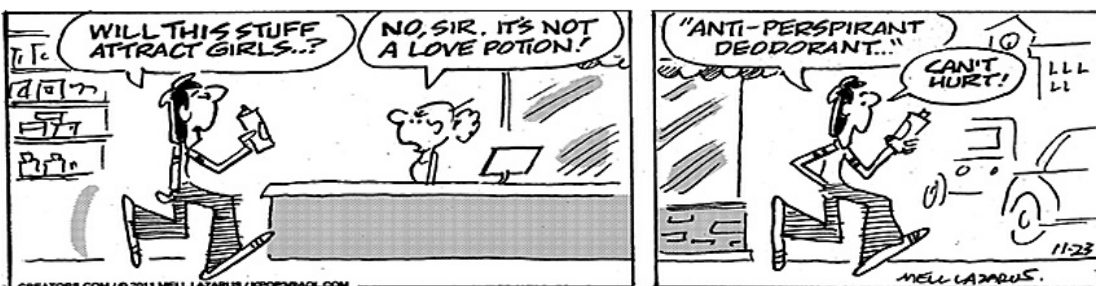


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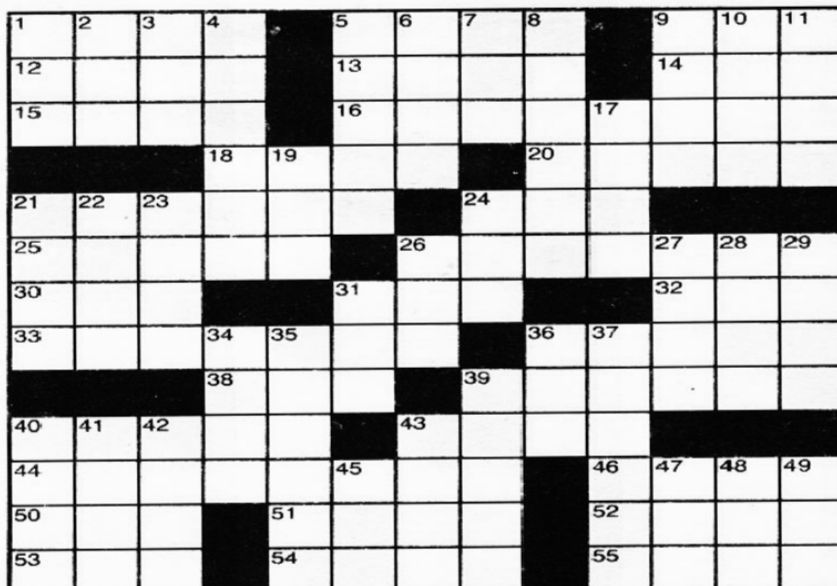
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## ACROSS

1. Resistance
5. Yawl
9. GI's address
12. Novelist Jaffe
13. Lhasa \_\_\_\_ (dog breed)
14. Capek play
15. For Pluto, it's over 90,000 days long
16. Starry gem found in Sri Lanka
18. Spad or brad
20. Oyster reward
21. Entry
24. In the style of
25. Overshoes
26. Symbol of faithfulness
30. Sixth sense: abbr.
31. "\_\_\_\_ Day Now"
32. Latin possessive
33. The Hope \_\_\_\_ (famous gem)
36. Yellow gem
38. Ship's heading: abbr.
39. Chocoholic's favorite fix
40. Modern Persian
43. Girl Scout cookie flavor
44. Chalcedony used for cameos
46. Red gem from Burma

## DOWN

50. Set ablaze
51. WXY key
52. Baffled
53. Ron of "Tarzan" fame
54. Weight-loss resorts
55. Type of tide
1. Do an after-dinner job
2. Shad \_\_\_\_
3. Actress Ortiz
4. Red semiprecious stone
5. Foundation
6. Gem from a Mexican mine
7. Cleopatra's
8. Overturn
9. "Brava" evoker
10. Contented cat's sound
11. Hurler
17. Take notice
19. Simpleton
21. Still snoozing
22. "\_\_\_\_ Fan Tutte"
23. \_\_\_\_ plea
24. "Baby Baby" Grant
26. Infinity's lack
27. Rock concert gear
28. Pastures
29. Stagger
31. Donkey, to



## NICE ROCK!

- Gigi
34. Convalesce
35. Scallions' kin
36. Bridge capacity unit
37. Beat in a foot race
39. Socializes
40. Elba, e.g.
41. \_\_\_\_ splitter
42. Like many Bergman films
43. Talkative bird
45. Puppy's bite
47. Exploit
48. One of Fergie's daughters
49. Bark sharply

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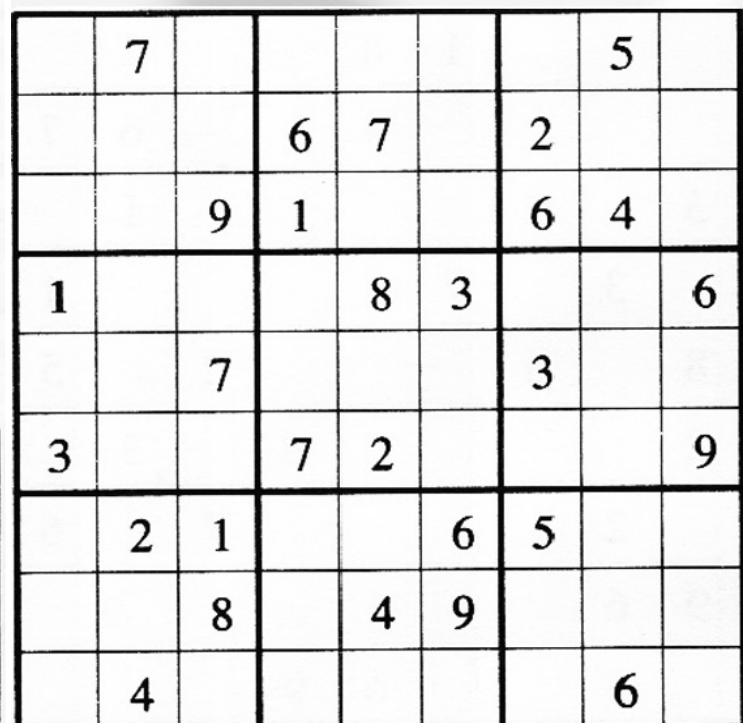
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## Sudoku




SOLUTION

8	9	6	4	1	7	5	2	3
2	5	1	6	3	8	9	4	7
4	7	5	9	8	1	2	6	3
5	8	3	1	9	4	7	6	2
9	2	4	5	8	6	3	1	7
1	4	9	2	5	1	6	8	3
6	5	7	8	4	9	3	1	2
1	5	8	4	6	3	2	7	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9






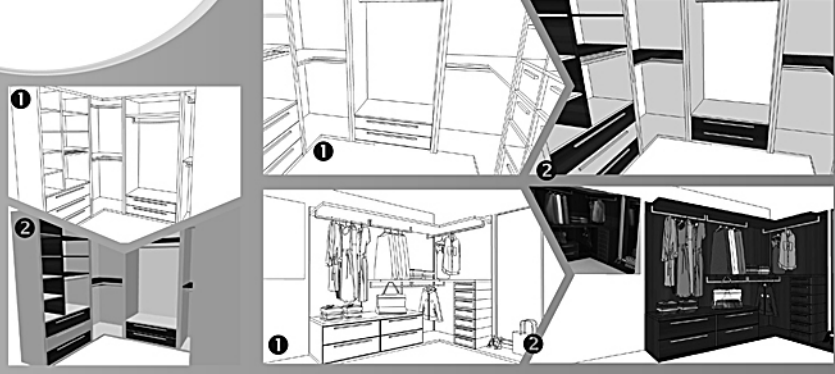
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Canada	CAD	1.690	1.710	1.730
Britain	GBP	2.710	2.760	2.820
Switzerland	CHF	1.9362	1.9434	1.9514
Netherlands	EUR	2.3627	2.3843	2.4083
Sweden	SEK	0.2488	0.2560	0.2640
Denmark	DKK	0.3109	0.3181	0.3261
Norway	NOK	0.2953	0.3025	0.3105
Japan	JPY	228.57	230.66	232.97

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## Consumer credit increases in September Summary of the Monthly Bulletin for September 2011

ORANJESTAD -- The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) concludes in its Monthly Bulletin of September 2011 that consumer credit increased by Afl. 8.1 million (+1.5 percent) in September 2011 compared to the previous month. This growth is, for the most part, attributed to more aggressive lending campaigns, in particular for car loans, during the period under review. While consumer credit is at its highest level for this year, it still remains below that of September 2010, indicating that Aruba is still on the path to recovery. The upturn in consumer credit caused a rise in claims on the private sector (+Afl. 4.6 million), which, together with growing claims on the public sector (+Afl. 18.1 million), and a decrease in other domestic factors (-Afl. 4.6 million) resulted in an expansion of Afl 18.0 million in the net domestic assets. On the other hand, net foreign assets (excluding revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings) declined by Afl. 18.8 million (-1.5 percent) to Afl. 1,238.1 million, which is still within an acceptable range. As a result, money supply contracted by Afl. 0.8 million to Afl. 3,217.4 million.

During September 2011, the number of stay-over visitors grew by 9.3 percent or 5,460 visitors compared to September 2010, attributed mainly to the Latin American market (+5,749 visitors or +36.3 percent), with Venezuela dominating in this market segment (+40.5 percent). In contrast, cruise tourism fell to 4,652 passengers, a 37.8 percent decline when compared to the same period of 2010.

The consumer price index (CPI) for October 2011 registered a 6.5 percent hike compared to the same month of 2010, related largely to higher utility and gasoline prices. The energy and food components of the CPI contributed with 5.0 percentage points to this acceleration. The 12-month average inflation rate reached 3.2 percent in October 2011.

In September 2011, tax revenue dropped by Afl. 6.8 million (-9.5 percent) when compared to the same month of 2010. Decreases were recorded in the receipts from taxes on income and profit (-Afl. 2.7 million), foreign exchange tax (-Afl. 1.0 million), taxes on property (-Afl. 1.6 million), and taxes on services (-Afl. 3.1 million). The latter is, however, associated with the introduction of the tourist levy following the new sui generis status of the Aruba Tourism Authority. The fall in tax revenue was partly mitigated by an increase in the receipts from taxes on commodities, where import duties rose by Afl. 1.8 million, along with an Afl. 0.7 million rise in the turnover tax (B.B.O.).

## Finance Eurobonds no magic solution to crisis, says Dutch Minister

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Eurobonds are not a magic solution to the eurozone's current crisis, but rather stricter fiscal discipline and budget supervision, the Dutch Finance Minister said yesterday.

"Eurobonds are not a magic solution to the current crisis and could even worsen it," Jan Kees de Jager said in a press release.

"Although I do not exclude eurobonds in the long run, we have to do first things first and that means establishing strict supervision and enforcement of budget discipline," he said.

The European Commission yesterday reopened the debate on the eventual creation of pooled eurozone government borrowings, seen as a way of helping resolve the debt crisis.

Jose Manuel Barroso, EU

Commission head, unveiled a feasibility study on the creation of eurobonds in Brussels.

EU Commissioner Olli Rehn has also promised strict fiscal conditions would be attached to the creation of any eurobonds.

Foreign Affairs State Secretary Ben Knapen said he welcomed the EC's proposals to ensure budgetary discipline was tightened.

## German bond auction spooks investors

BERLIN (AFP) - A German bond auction failed yesterday, sparking concern the debt crisis could strike at the heart of the eurozone as European leaders bickered about what to do next.

"Though some may feel these proposals go too far, we would like to strengthen the Commission's hand even further within the current treaty as to ensure credible rules for all and exceptions for none," he said in a statement.

Knapen goes even further: "The Commission, as far as we are concerned, could even go a step further to ensure enforceability."

Investors shunned an issue of German 10-year bonds, considered the gold standard of eurozone debt, making bids of only 3.9 billion euros (\$5.2 billion) for the 6.0 billion euros of securities on offer.

While Berlin downplayed the outcome, Austria's central bank head and European Central Bank (ECB) governing council member Ewald Nowotny called it an "alarm signal."

The German Finance Agency deemed it a "reflection of the extraordinarily nervous market conditions," and a spokesman insisted it does not mean any refinancing bottleneck.

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## YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

CAP	PIC	SHOP
OLE	ALAS	TIRE
CAT	TOFU	EVER
ON	NEVEN	KEEL
USE	DEL	
STEM	POI	OAF
HARBOR	AGR	GRUDGE
ANA	VAT	LEON
SET	PAN	
DOWNTHE	HATCH	
YALE	LANE	RUE
AREA	ETNA	OBI
KNOT	SAD	TAR



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# Queen still reigns 20 years on from Mercury's death

LONDON (AFP) - Freddie Mercury died 20 years ago on today but his star has only burned brighter in the two decades since, with Queen and their larger-than-life frontman as popular as ever.

The British rockers, marking their 40th anniversary this year, are among the world's biggest-selling artists ever -- with most of their sales coming in the 20 years since Mercury died.

Queen's guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor are busier than ever and Mercury's songs such as "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "Don't Stop Me Now" still endure as classics.

The Independent on Sunday newspaper said the singer's death "seemed a mere hiccup in his career".

In the years since, Mercury's stock has risen, with a new generation of artists citing Queen among their influences, including Lady Gaga, Robbie Williams, Foo Fighters and Muse.

Mercury, 45, died at his London home on November 24, 1991. He had been diagnosed HIV positive several years earlier and died of bronchial pneumonia, brought on by AIDS.

Queen's lead singer is remembered for his captivating live performances, spellbinding vocals and enduring hits

including "We Are The Champions", "Killer Queen", "Crazy Little Thing Called Love".

The jukebox musical "We Will Rock You", launched in 2002, still plays to a packed house in London and has been staged around the world from Australia to South Africa, Japan, Europe and Las Vegas.

With interest still high, a film about Mercury, starring Borat creator Sacha Baron Cohen, is in the pipeline, focusing on the years leading up to Queen's stellar performance at the Live Aid concert in 1985.

"Even though physically he is not here, his presence seems more potent than ever," May wrote in a blog marking Mercury's 65th birthday in September.

"He will always epitomise the perfect frontman -- the consummate channel of communication between a band and an audience. "He devoured life. He celebrated every minute. And, like a great comet, he left a luminous trail which will sparkle for many a generation to come."

In a statement on November 23, 1991, Mercury confirmed from his death bed that he had AIDS.



Within 24 hours he had fallen into a coma and passed away, having handled his illness in private and never complained of his suffering.

As one of the highest-profile victims of AIDS, his death brought greater awareness of the virus and helped remove the stigma from a disease now ravaging southern Africa.

In a 1987 interview, Mercury told journalist David Wigg he had no fears of becoming a lonely, rich 70-year-old.

"I've lived a full life and if I'm dead tomorrow, I don't

give a damn. I really have done it all," he said.

Born Farrokh Bulsara on September 5, 1946 to a Parsi Indian family living on the East African spice island of Zanzibar and educated at an English-style boarding school in India, the shy teenager arrived in London when his family fled the 1964 Zanzibar revolution.

The classic image of Mercury is him in his 1986 touring costume, moustachioed and with one fist raised to the sky, a pose captured in the statue of him in Montreux on the Swiss shores of Lake Geneva.

When they felt able, his three bandmates painstakingly produced full tracks from scraps of vocals an ailing Mercury had recorded there in 1991, in precious hours when he could muster the strength.

Once he could no longer record, Mercury decided to come off his medication.

The subsequent album, "Made In Heaven", released in 1995, is one of Queen's best sellers.

Facing up to life without

Mercury was tough.

May plunged into severe depression, having also lost his father and his marriage and contemplated suicide.

Like May, Taylor produced two solo albums in the 1990s, but despite their efforts to move on from Queen, they learned to embrace their legacy.

Bassist John Deacon retired in 1997 and has vanished from the public eye, though May and Taylor have his blessing to carry on.

Launching the rock theatrical "We Will Rock You" in 2002 was a gamble that paid off, breathing new life into Queen's music by allowing fans to enjoy their hits played live.

More than 13 million people have seen it worldwide, including 5.5 million at London's Dominion Theatre.

A sequel is planned, using songs not in the existing musical, though the original keeps packing out theatres.

Queen went back on the road again in 2005 when they joined forces with former Free singer Paul Rodgers.

Their collaboration spawned giant arena tours plus a studio album "The Cosmos Rocks" (2008) before Rodgers returned to his solo career.

One outdoor show in Kharkiv -- Queen's first in Ukraine -- played to 350,000 people, highlighting the enduring support for the band.



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Dishes for which they are particularly noted are the Aruba Triangle, a mélange of local fish and lobster tail and their Baked Sea Bass, among a diverse sampling of seafood.



**Seabass**

However, landlubbers are not ignored, and steak and fowl are very tempting, with their original and unique sauces.

Fans of Simply Fish wax enthusiastically about the delightful island ambiance as well as their tasty menu; "don't miss the desserts-they are to die for" one devotee informed us, so don't depart without trying the fresh made Devil's Food or Coconut Banana cakes.

However, restaurant owners acknowledge their star attraction is the tranquil location, a perfect place for a romantic dinner-or perhaps proposal? Sunset is the prime time to enjoy a meal at Simply Fish, while digging your toes in the sand, and their reservation book fill up early for that time in particular, so it is recommended to reserve days in advance, as seating is very limited.

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## This coming Sunday Art in bloom at the Butterfly Farm



ORANJESTAD - Local artists will display their unique creations in an "Art under the trees" exhibition to be held in front of the Butterfly Farm, this coming Sunday, November 27, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Ornamental art pieces on display will include glass jewelry, fabric art and wood-work paintings.

The exhibition is open to the public for viewing as well as with items for purchase. The event is an annual occasion which puts the spotlight on local artists and their

works as well as functions as a "get ready for Christmas" sale.

Spend a portion of your Sunday enjoying the tranquil natural environment by the Butterfly Farm, taking time to appreciate the works of local artists for an "Art under the trees" experience. The Butterfly Farm is located across from the Divi Phoenix and Westin hotels. The one-day only exhibition will be held Sunday, November 27, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## More Celebration at the Magic Live! show



Morgan from New York City, celebrated her 14th birthday, Sunday, with her friends and family, at the Magic Live!@...comedy show, starring Adam Steinfeld, WESTIN RESORT, Aruba, so much fun, an amazing evening of grand illusions, magic and fun, highly interactive, bring the entire family. SHOWTIME NIGHTLY, 9pm, tickets at the theater door.

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## SPORT

## Ferrer hands Djokovic rare defeat



David Ferrer of Spain returns against Novak Djokovic of Serbia during their group A singles match in London on November 23, 2011.

LONDON (AFP) - World number one Novak Djokovic was beaten for only the fifth time this year as Spain's David Ferrer booked his place in the semi-finals of the ATP World Tour Finals with a 6-3, 6-1 victory on Wednesday.

Djokovic had won 70 of his previous 74 matches during a majestic campaign, but the Serb was completely outplayed by fifth seed Ferrer, who joins Roger Federer in the last four at London's O2 Arena.

Although Djokovic has enjoyed one of the greatest single seasons in tennis history after winning three Grand Slam titles and five Masters crowns, he has been flagging in recent weeks.

The 24-year-old has been hampered by back and shoulder injuries since winning the US Open and was forced to withdraw from the Paris Masters.

On the evidence of this lacklustre effort, the Tour Finals might be a tournament too far for Djokovic, although he can still qualify for the semi-finals with a win over compatriot Janko Tipsarevic on Friday.

Both players walked on court knowing they could seal their place in the last four with a victory, although Ferrer needed to work slightly harder than his opponent as only a straight-sets triumph would be enough, while Djokovic could afford to win by any margin and still go through.

However, Djokovic was below his best against Tomas Berdych in his opening Group

A match on Monday -- he had to save a match point before eventually coming through in the final set tie-breaker -- and Ferrer was able to take advantage of another tired display.

Djokovic squandered an early chance to seize the momentum when he lofted a forehand well long on break point in the fourth game and Ferrer was able to scramble a service hold from a tricky position.

Ferrer had given a ruthless performance against the ailing Andy Murray in his straight sets win on Monday and the Spaniard was in obdurate mood again.

While Ferrer is unlikely to ever attract the headlines gar-

nered by Djokovic, Roger Federer and company, the world number five has quietly become a regular presence in the latter stages of Grand Slams and in the upper echelons of the rankings.

His remarkable consistency from the baseline makes him a tough nut to crack as Djokovic discovered when the 29-year-old produced a fizzing forehand to break for a 4-3 lead.

Ferrer's clever shot selection was keeping Djokovic was establishing any rhythm and the Serb shook his head forlornly as another unforced error gave away a second break to end the first set.

Djokovic was under pressure again in the second game of the second set. He saved two break points but couldn't stave off a third as Ferrer unloaded a fierce winner from the baseline.

Ferrer was just too solid in every aspect of the game for Djokovic to harbour much hope of a comeback and the Spaniard underlined his superiority with one more break before serving out a win almost as impressive as Federer's demolition of Rafael Nadal on Tuesday.

## Athletics: Mullings vows fight to clear his name despite ban

KINGSTON (AFP) - Disgraced Jamaican sprinter Steve Mullings said on Wednesday that a lifetime ban handed down by a Jamaican anti-doping panel will not stop his quest to clear his name.

After his expulsion from athletics on Monday following a second doping violation in seven years, the two-time IAAF World Championships relay medallist says he and his camp will focus their attention on proving his innocence.

Mullings set a 100-meter personal best of 9.80 seconds at the Prefontaine Classic in June, the fourth-fastest time

last season, and became the sixth-fastest ever in the event.


But the Florida training partner of US sprint star Tyson Gay tested positive for the banned diuretic furosimide, used to mask performance-enhancing drugs, on June 24 at the Jamaican championships after finishing third at 100m.

In 2004, Mullings had tested positive for elevated level of testosterone and was suspended for two years.

On Monday, a three-man Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission (JADCO) disciplinary committee panel had handed down the maximum sentence allowed, four days after finding Mullings guilty of the doping violation.

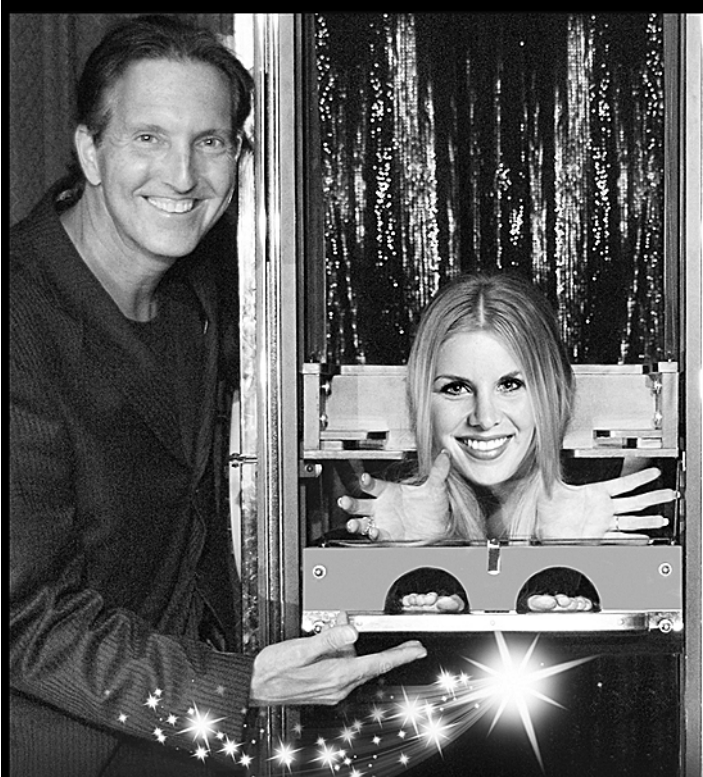
Mullings had said before the panel rendered its decision that he planned to appeal his case to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS).

Mullings, who recorded seven sub-10-second 100m runs last season, is among 20 Jamaican athletes to test positive for a banned substance.



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## NBA: Talks to end lockout resume: reports

NEW YORK (AFP) - Negotiations aimed at ending the NBA lockout that reached its 146th day on Wednesday have resumed with the goal of ending the money squabble in time to play games on December 25, according to reports.

ESPN and The New York Times, citing unnamed sources, said the talks began on Tuesday between attorneys for both sides because of an anti-trust lawsuit filed last week by players against the league.

NBA club owners, claiming \$300 million in losses last season among 22 of the league's 30 clubs, locked out the players when the prior collective bargaining agreement expired on July 1.

Negotiations on how to divide about \$4 billion in annual income never produced a deal, with owners demanding a 50-50 revenue split and players, who made 57 percent in the old deal, unwilling to surrender more than 53 percent.

As a result, the league has called off all games from November 1 through December 15 and without a deal by the weekend, the popular nationally televised Christmas Day games are also like to be lost.

This season's NBA schedule for December 25 features Miami at Dallas in a rematch of last season's championship series won by the Mavericks over LeBron James-led Miami, plus Boston at New York and Chicago at the Los Angeles Lakers.

The league would comment only that "it remains in favor of a negotiated resolution" to the deadlock that is threatening to wipe out the entire season.

Should the framework of a deal be hammered out by lawyers, the union could be revived and the lawsuit scrapped in order for players to adopt a new deal.

In the only prior NBA season shortened in a money fight, each team played 50 games in the 1998-99 season, which did not start until February after a deal was reached in early January.

About a month would be needed from signatures on a contract to opening tip off given that there has been no free agency or contract signing period for clubs in the wake of the shutdown and pre-season camps would be needed.

## NFL rivalry of coaches .....

*continued from page 16*



**ST. LOUIS:** Marshawn Lynch #24 of the Seattle Seahawks is gang-tackled by members of the St. Louis Rams defense at the Edward Jones Dome. The Seahawks beat the Rams 24-7.

"We don't talk about the simple fact that we're a winning team now," tight end Vernon Davis said. "We kind of just go with the flow. We expect to win."

At Detroit, the Lions try to close the gap on the runaway

NFL leaders. Detroit and Chicago each trail the unbeaten Packers by three games in the NFC North division.

The Lions edged Green Bay 7-3 last year in Detroit.

"They will be pretty

jacked up," Packers defensive end B.J. Raji said. "They are probably going to be confident. They beat us last year at home. They believe they can win. It's our job to convince them they can't."

At Dallas, the Cowboys share the NFC East lead with the New York Giants and cannot afford a letdown even against the struggling Dolphins.

Sunday's games find Minnesota at Atlanta, Cleveland at Cincinnati, Carolina at winless Indianapolis, Houston at Jacksonville, Buffalo at the New York Jets, Arizona at St. Louis, Chicago at Oakland, Washington at Seattle, Tampa Bay at Tennessee, Denver at San Diego, New England at Philadelphia and Pittsburgh at Kansas City. The Giants visit New Orleans on Monday night.

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## Holiday offers first sibling rivalry of coaches



**FOXBORO** -Shane Vereen #34 of the New England Patriots beat the defense of Jovan Belcher #59 of the Kansas City Chiefs for a touchdown in the second half at Gillette Stadium on November 21, 2011.

BALTIMORE (AFP) - Families usually come together for American Thanksgiving holiday, but today's NFL holiday schedule features a first-ever clash between teams coached by rival brothers.

San Francisco 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh, who has guided his club to a 9-1 start, will be tested against his

brother John, coach of the Baltimore Ravens (7-3), in one of three holiday games with major implications in the standings.

In addition to the clash of division leaders at Baltimore, the unbeaten Green Bay Packers (10-0) visit Detroit (7-3) while Dallas (6-4) will play host to Miami (3-7).

But the sibling showdown, a potential Super Bowl preview, has sparked the biggest conversations, in part because no brothers have ever been on opposite sides as head coaches in an NFL game.

"There's not a lot of time to really think about the warm and fuzzy reunions, the nostalgia," Jim Harbaugh said.

"I definitely think it was very considerate of the NFL to reunite the brothers on Thanksgiving. I think that's going to be very difficult for our team. There's no question that we drew the short end of the straw on this one."

The 49ers' coach said he expects the Ravens will be his team's toughest foe yet as they try to stay one game behind Green Bay in the chase for a home-field playoff edge. A victory and Seattle loss on Sunday would seal a playoff berth.

"There's a little bit more to it because they are brothers," star 49ers defender Patrick Willis said.

Jim Harbaugh, the younger of the siblings by 15

months, noted that no NFL team has had to travel from one coast to another for a Thanksgiving game since 1975 until his team was given the task this week.

"You probably want to peel back the onion some more and get into my soul, but this week my brother is just somebody we're trying to beat," Harbaugh said. "Doing my job as it relates to our team preparing for the game is first and foremost. I think it'll probably be a big deal for my parents."

The 49ers, who have been solid on defense all season, will have a short week to pre-

pare for the Ravens and one of the NFL's toughest defenses, but San Francisco quarterback Alex Smith was trying to follow his game-week routines.

"It's business as usual, staying with our routine," Smith said. "There will be obstacles for us that we have to overcome. It will be a crammed week."

San Francisco, enjoying its first winning season since 2002, lost 27-24 in over-time to Dallas in the second week of the season. They are on an eight-game win streak, something the 49ers last achieved in 1997.

*continues on page 15*

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